

No 121

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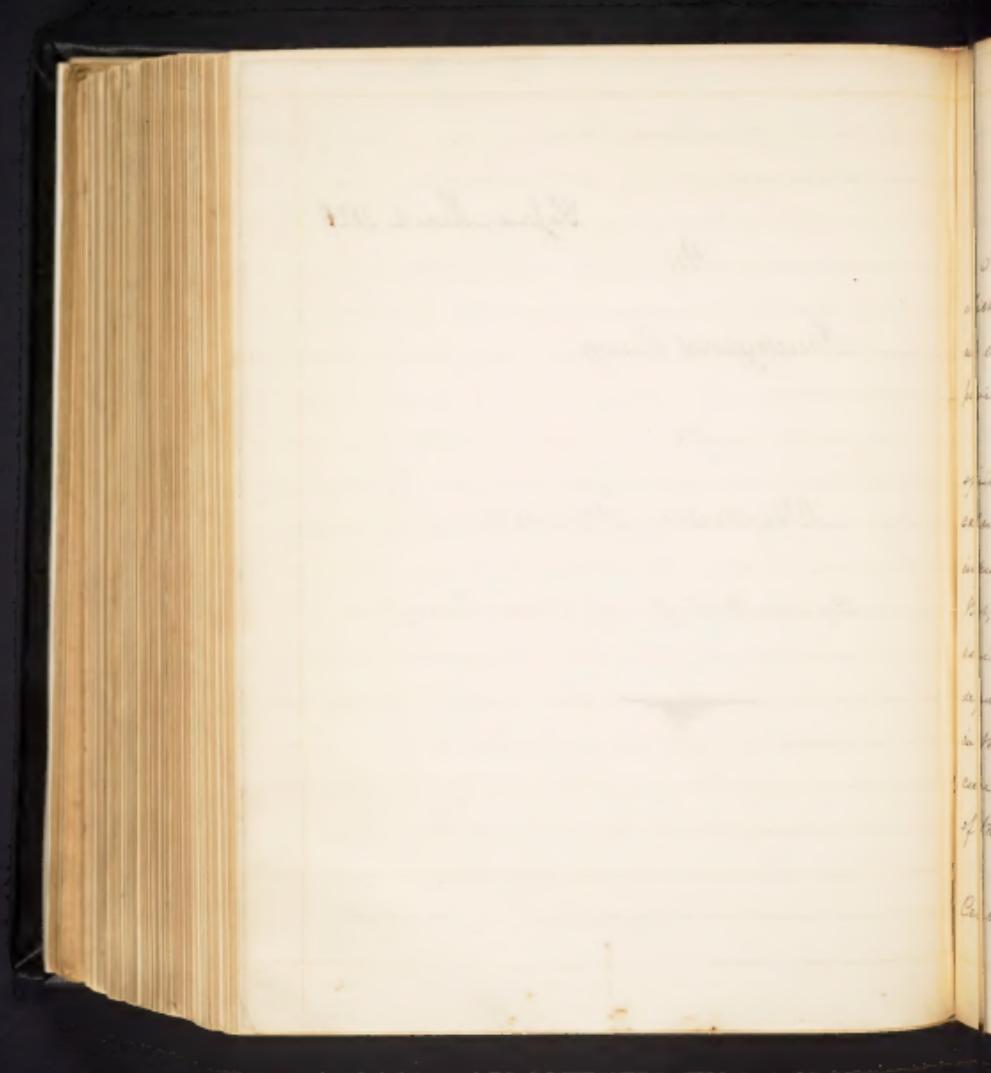
Dated March 1826

Inaugural Essay

on

Delirium Tremens.

By John B. Tuft, of New Jersey.

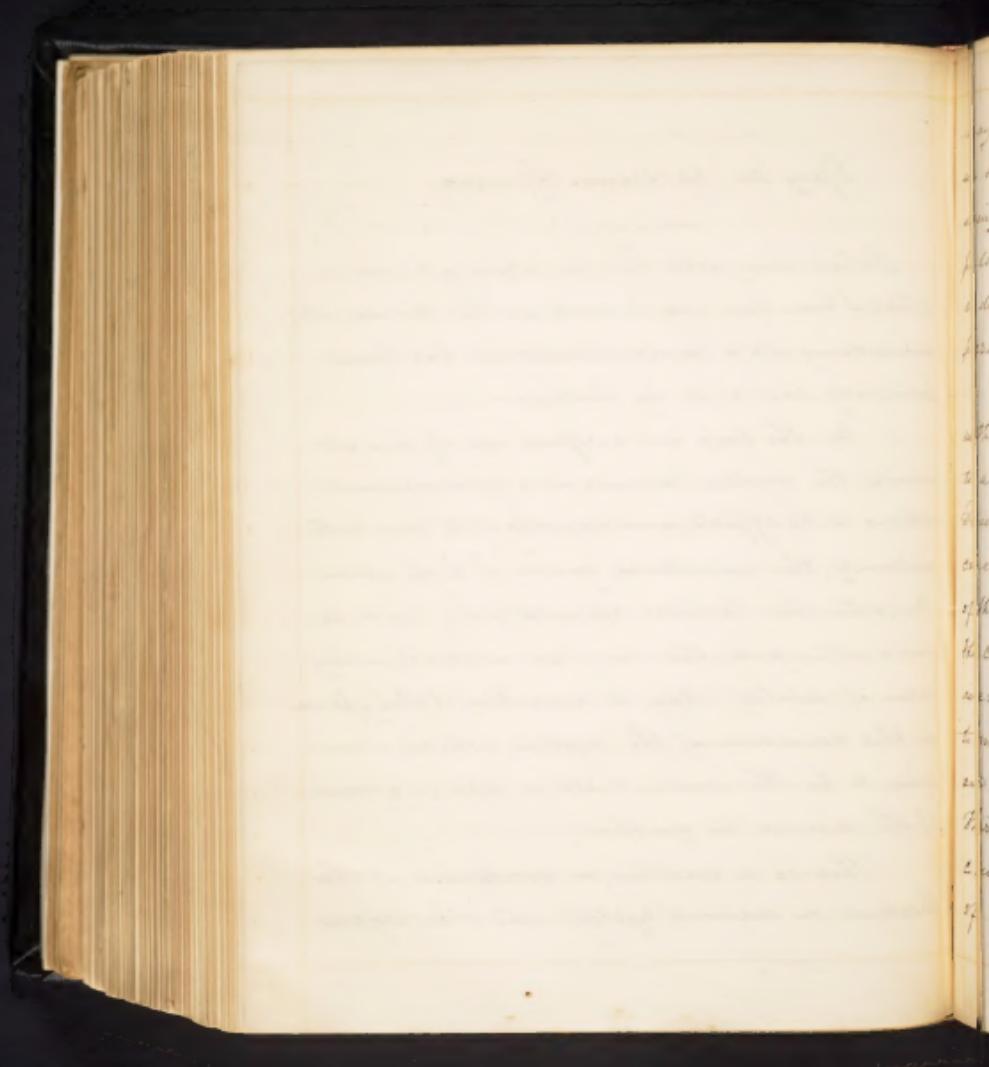


Essay on Delirium Tremens.

I shall merely state the observations and inquiries which I have been able to make on this disease, without entering into a consideration of what has been previously said of it by Authors.

By the long and excessive use of ardent spirits, the system becomes in a great measure callous to its effects, and enables it to bear with impunity, this unnatural grade of high action. But, when this habitual stimulus by any cause becomes interrupted, then we have a corresponding degree of debility. Now, it is reaction taking place in this condition of the system, which, I conceive to be the immediate, or exciting cause of the disease in question.

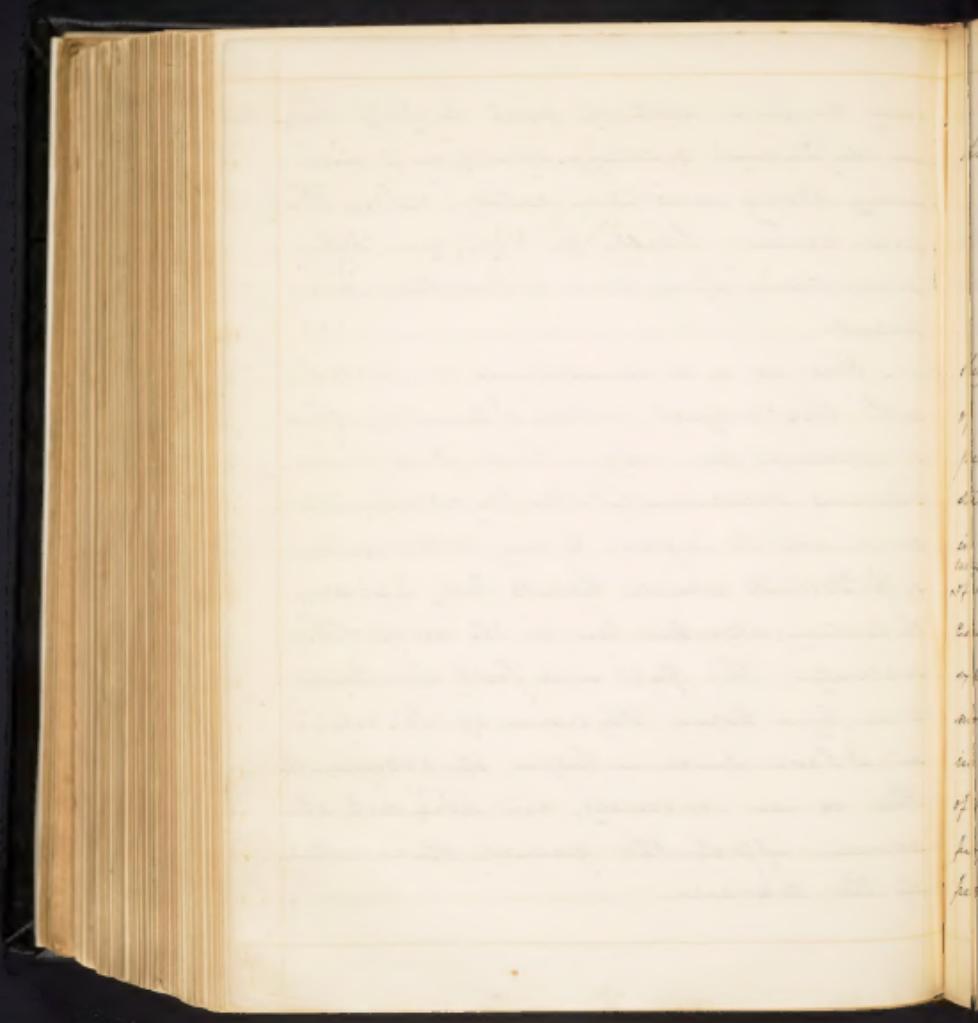
This is a reaction, or excitement, of the Cerebral or nervous system, and other organs



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may be in a state of great debility. Thus, we see Patients walking about, and even using strong muscular action, when the pulse could hardly be felt, and other indications of extreme exhaustion are present.

There is a circumstance connected with this subject, which I leave to others to account for, viz. That Delirium Tremens occasionally takes place when it could not be referred to any interruption of the Patients usual habits; but, has on the contrary, attacked him in the midst of his integrity. This fact was first mentioned to me by a learned Physician of this City; and I have since witnessed its occurrence. This is an anomaly, and does not, of course, affect the general character of the disease.



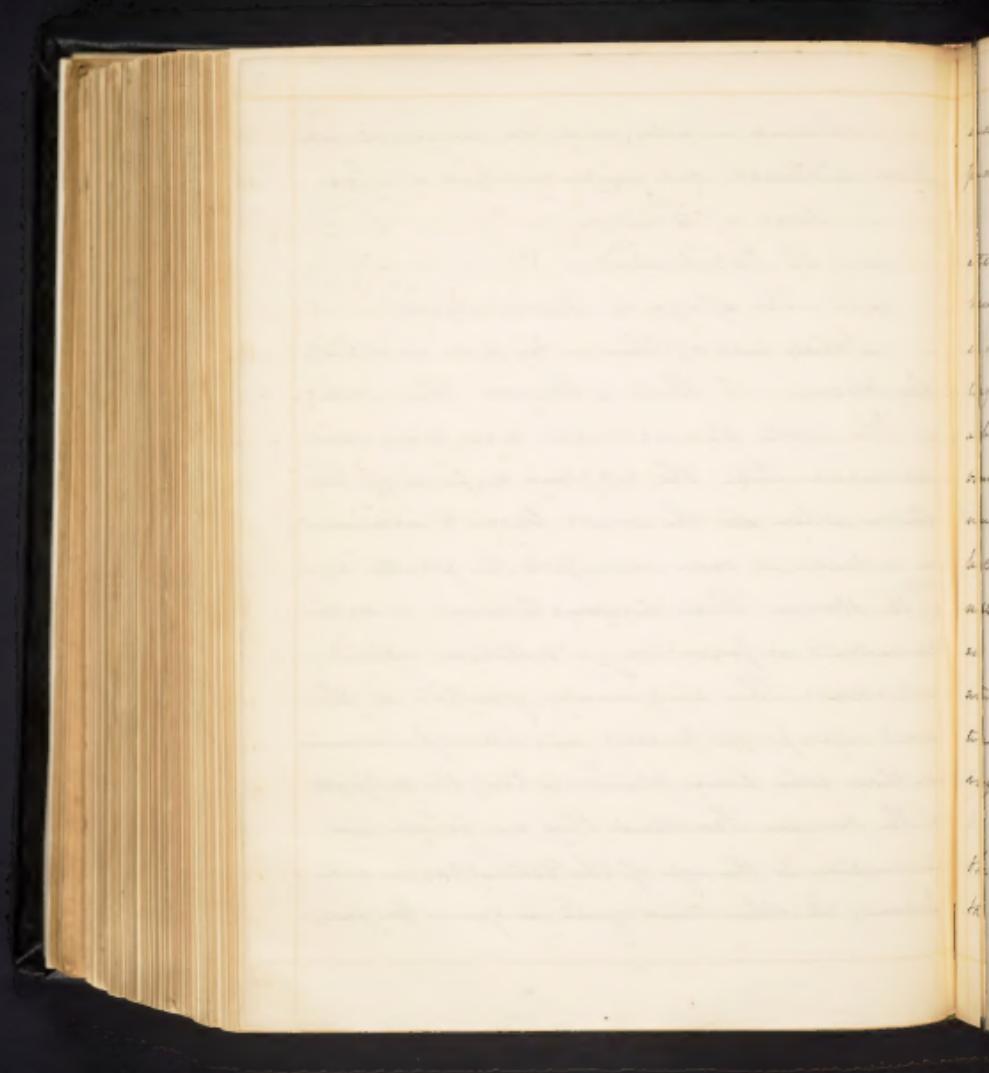
Mania a potu, may be divided into
three distinct and well-marked stages:

I. That of Tremor;

II. of Excitement;

III. The stage of Convalescence.

I shall treat of these in the order in which
they occur. I. That of Tremor. This is one
of the most characteristic and prominent
precursors: Like the rippling surface of the
stream, when into the winds begin to increase
in violence, it soon manifests the greater agi-
^{tion} of the storm. These nervous tremors may be
considered as furnishing a criterion often
expected. They are generally greatest in the
most intemperate persons, and always alarming
in those who have previously been the subjects
of the disease. Sometimes they are greater in
proportion to the age of the Patient, as in old
persons; at other times great in young persons,

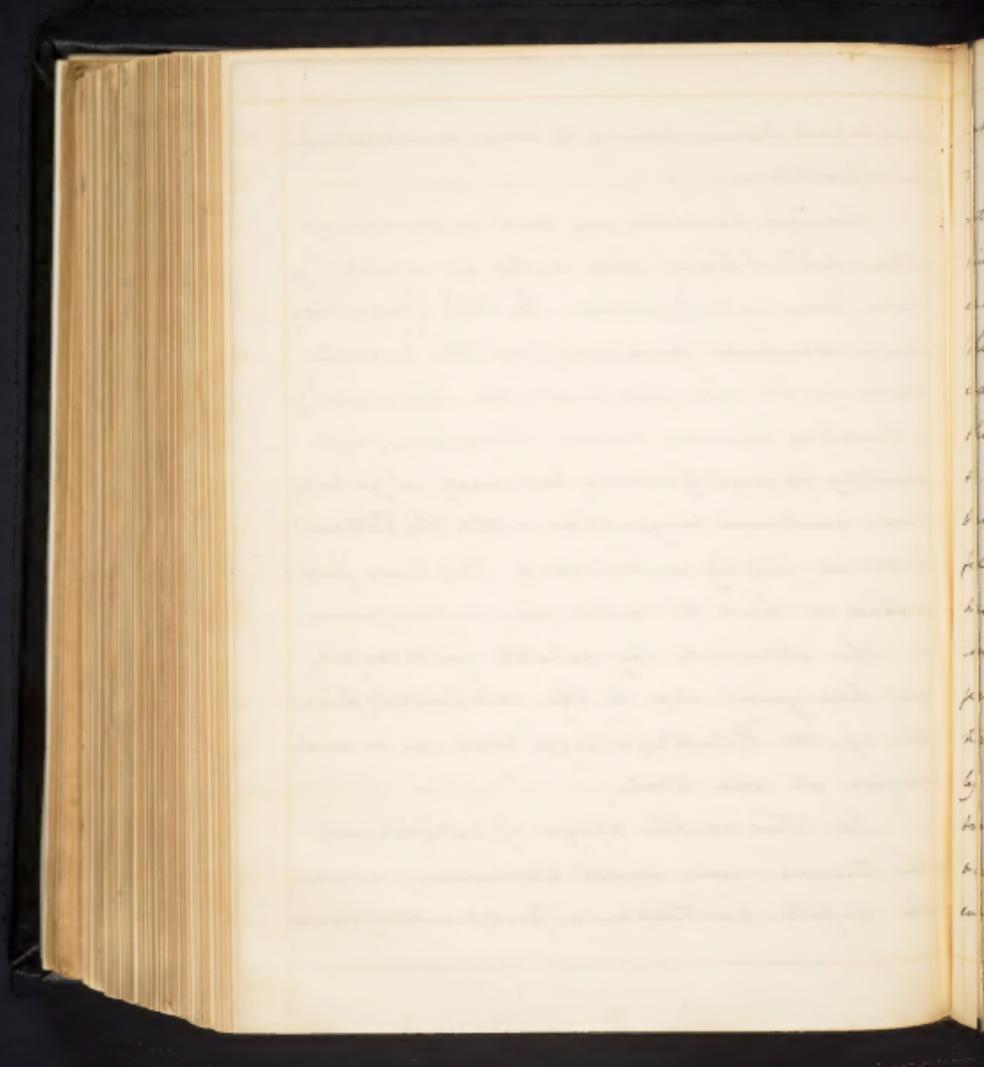


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and recent cases, owing to former constitutional predisposition.

Thomosis, however, are not necessarily an attendant: I have seen cases in which they have been entirely absent. In this stage, there is no unusual peculiarity in the pulse—tongue for the most part moist, the middle of a bluish or leaden colour. It is here that vomiting frequently attends, but rarely, or perhaps never, continues longer than until the Patient becomes slightly or delirious. This has furnished a hint to make an impression on the stomach by emetic medicines, and has given rise to the celebrated practice of Dr. Clap, which was in so much vogue at one time.

II. This is the stage of excitement; the tensions now most commonly abated the pupils contract—a perspiration breaks



out over the body - the mind now begins
to wander, and complete delirium soon
sets in. This delirium is of a peculiar
kind: every thing receding - being in a
weird state of the mental functions.
The patient is in a continual state of
watching, talking, fancying and
delirious - as in other forms of mania
so in this, the mind is variously affected:
he is harassed with the most dread-
ful ideas of misery, thinking those about
him come to torment or murder him.
Another imagines animals or fanciful ob-
jects in the wall, or capering through
his room - another is loud and constantly,
and amuses one by his caresses, and
sometimes, witty expressions; crying too,
occasionally attends most furiously in
women - a fitful kind of crying, alternately



with morning and puerperies, is not a
good symptom, seems to indicate the
patient has a bilious and gummy flux
of heat in solution. The state of the
heat may continue for weeks, or months,
and sometimes even longer, ending in a
fever and uninterrupted sleep. This
is the chief peculiarity, the patient for the
most part makes perfectly voluntary and con-
sciousness than others.

The disease is an affection of the body
body and brain, and is a nervous affection
of the nervous system. But however the disease
comes it is liable to the most violent convul-
sions, and may be of a very long duration.
The sudden prostration is seldom violent,
and if very great, the patient will recover
nerves. See - say, if there is no heat, it
is a very constant relulsion to touch his



2. $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 2 = 2$





be a small opinion, as I have given
in my note to my other views of History
as far as these laws bring me round,
of which there are more in Wilson than
he will be aware. He is an open man
but simple, in doors willing to be in error
of the laws. I have known no case wherein
it has been necessary to induce this man
to recant even a third relation. He
diseases generally visiting, or a disease, and
not convalescence, or a first visitation. So this
may be what an accumulation of the laws
implies in himself an effect and
absolute and laws effect is induced, when
we see this silent and laborious
and more silent for sometime. For this
he should be given consideration, then
as to our debt, we can know by coll,
common sense, nothing is better than this



Mult of time would be given to
old students. On the one side & other
the new is of immense advantage.
When selection comes it is better to
let a man go, than to let him go
and then to call him back. It is better
to have a man go, than to have
a man come back.

Each man is to be sent to
the next to the next & so on
and each man is to be sent to the
next to the next & so on
and each man is to be sent to the
next to the next & so on
and each man is to be sent to the
next to the next & so on.

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solid membranes extending from the
lungs to the heart and vessels, are visible.
When this occurs in fact, it is with
the greatest of difficulty and danger to attempt
to treat it in any other way than with
bleeding, & emetics, & in the case of little
relief, it seems to me, to give up the
ambulance we will not succeed.

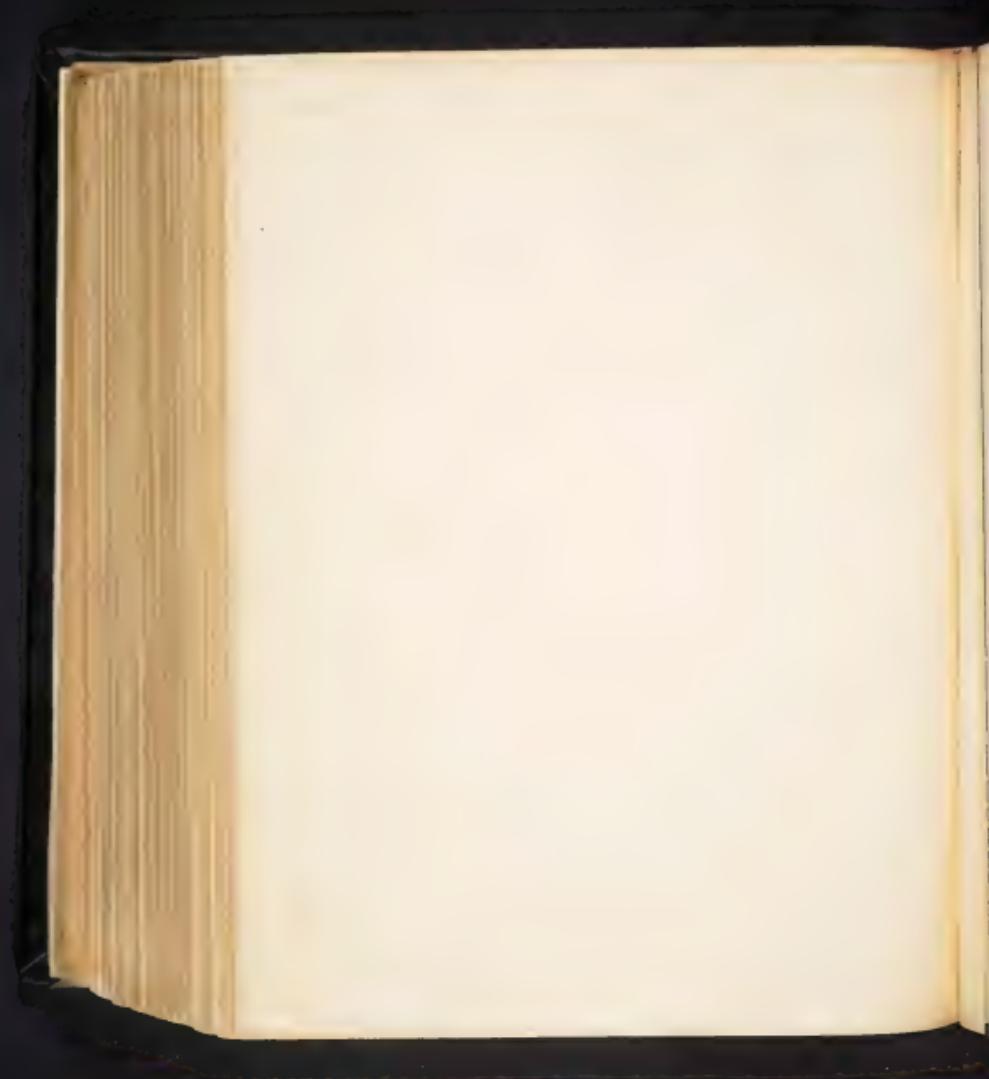
If the great variety of medicines which have,
at different times, been proposed, as curatives,
in this disease, I have had no experience, and
therefore, am not prepared to say any thing of
them. The great practice, so far as I have
had opportunities of judging, has been in
successful or not to call for a change.

Of thirty-five Patients who were under
my care in the Philadelphia Almshouse,
and who were treated in the way above
proposed, not one case terminated fatally.

— foregoing is a sketch of some

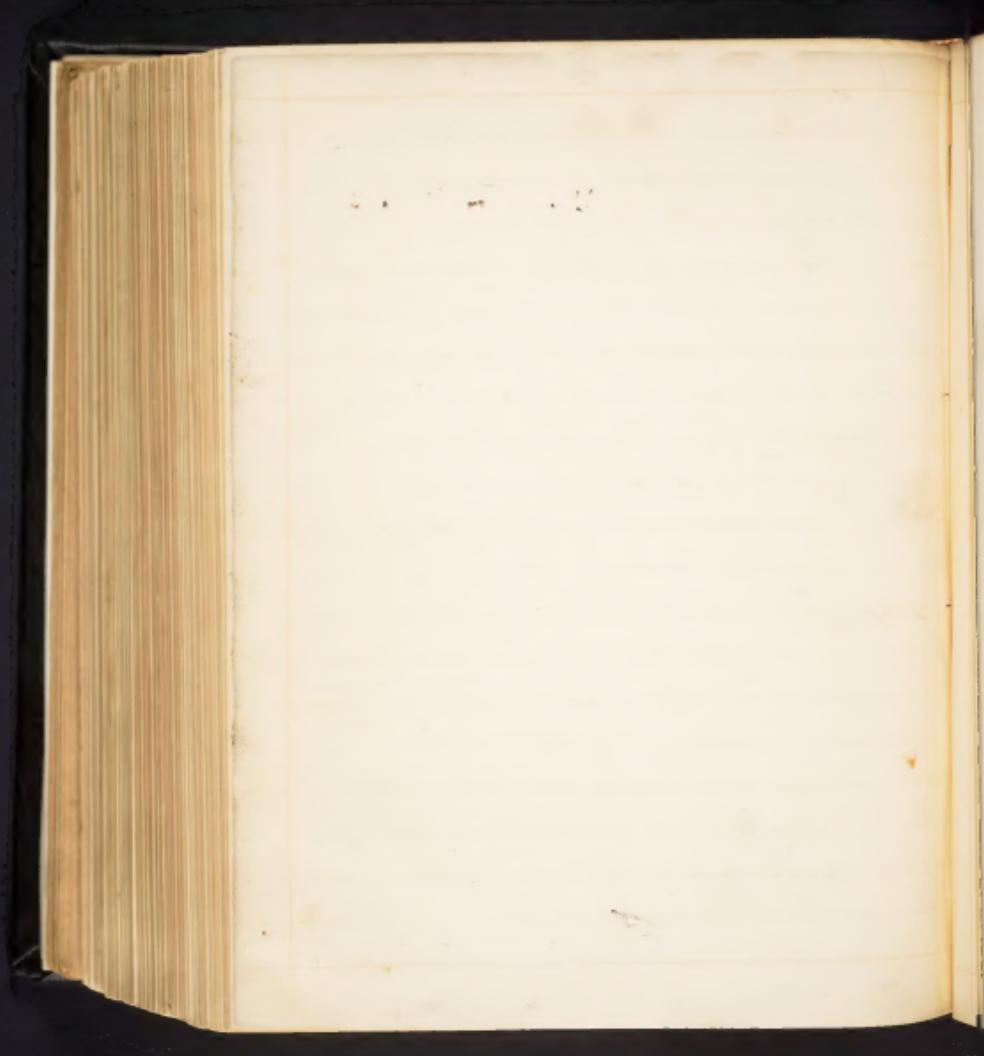


of the most, prominent features of Maria a
volta. - might easily have given a more
minute detail of it, but as science were
less fully a revelation of what she has done
and taught, therefore, as an object of
it may be, is less effectually recommended
to an intelligent consideration.









Feb 15th 1899

G. S. No 41

6th instant

